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TRIAL RUN OF NEW DANISH DIESEL ENGINE

An event of international importance to shipowners and shipbuilders took place 24 March 1953 when the Songkhla, the new ship built by Burmeister and Wain for the East Asia Company (A/S Det Østasiatiske Kompagni), underwent its trial run, carrying a group of shipowners and technicians.

The ship is equipped with an engine which is a revolutionary new development in ship engines, a supercharged diesel engine. In this engine, the exhaust gases from the motor drive a turbine which is coupled to the two blowers that deliver scavenging air to the engine. This supercharger makes possible an increase of up to 35 percent in effective horsepower without a corresponding increase in dimensions. In the case of the Songkhla, a saving of 30 percent in weight and 20 percent in length of the main engine has been effected, with a corresponding gain in cargo space.

The Songkhla has a seven-cylinder main engine (normally it would have nine), which is directly reversible.

The Songkhla is the first vessel especially built for the new system, although superchargers were installed in a new ship built some time ago for the A. P. Møller Company. Technicians claim that the innovation represents the greatest improvement in diesel engines in the past 25 years.

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